- May 1-5, 2003, at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland
- 66 high school teams from 39 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Teams consist of 4-5 students and a teacher/coach
- All teams won a regional science bowl tournament to come to the National finals
- Saturday, May 3 Science Day with team hands-on activities such as building a machine that will do work using air power provided by the students and presentations on nanotechnology, oceanography and forensic sciences. In a new Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge, 10 teams will design, build and race hydrogen fuel cell model cars.
- May 4 and 5 competition format is a nine-division round robin followed by an 18-team double elimination tournament
- Students solve problems and answer increasingly difficult questions in astronomy, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and earth and general sciences
- Prizes:
 - 2-week International Science School, University of Sydney, Australia
 - 2-week International Youth Science Forum in London, England
 - 1-week science research trip to South Carolina
 - Top 18 teams will receive \$1,000 for their school's science department
 - Texas Instruments will provide each student and coach on the top 5 teams with a TI-89 calculator and the top 3 schools with Computer Based Laboratory IIs
 - The winning teams of the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge will share \$4,500 prizes for their schools
 - The team that receives the Civility Award will also receive a trip to the Crow Canyon Archaeological Site in Colorado and PDAs provided by IBM.
- The Department of Energy began the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage high school students to excel in math and science and to pursue careers in these fields. The department supports math and science education to and workforce development to help provide a technically trained and diverse workforce for the agency and the nation.
- Corporate sponsors of the 2003 National Science Bowl are the Bechtel Foundation, General Motors, IBM and Texas Instruments
- More than 90,000 students have participated in the Science Bowl since it began in 1991
- 13,000 students from 1,800 schools competed in regional science bowl competitions in 2003
- Regional competitions are held at Department of Energy sites, other federal agencies, education institutions and utilities